

Testimony Before the Committee on Parks, Community & Customer Services

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Statement in Strong Support of Resolution 17-39, Requesting the City Administration  
Maintain Thomas Square As A Public Park

Chair Ann H. Kobayashi, Vice Chair Trevor Ozawa and Members:

I am Sharon Moriwaki, a resident of Kaka'ako and President of Kaka'ako United, an organization of concerned residents and citizens committed to ensuring Kaka'ako is developed to enhance our quality of life. We have been very supportive of open space and parks for our urban neighborhoods. If we followed the national standard, we would have two acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents.

Needless to say, we have too few parks, particularly in our urban communities. Thus, our strong interest in and concern about the renovation of Thomas Square and its transfer from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Department of Enterprise Services. We should be adding more park space for the urban communities rather than taking parkland from our residents. While we support the improvement of landscaping and repair of bathrooms, we would like to see Thomas Square retained as a public park and the City Administration honor Section 46-65.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to maintain Thomas Square as a public park.

Based on the foregoing, I ask your support on behalf of the residents of Honolulu, particularly those in urban areas, who treasure the public parks by ensuring that the City Administration maintain Thomas Square as a public park and forgo transferring it administration and use for other purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Sharon Y Moriwaki  
425 South St.  
Kaka'ako, HI 96813

PCCS